

of nearly seventy years. He was elected a Fellow of this Society May 14, 1869.

WILLIAM CHIMMO was born in the year 1828, and entered the Royal Navy in 1841, when only thirteen years old. He obtained the rank of lieutenant in 1850, and of commander in 1864. He served in the first and second China wars, against pirates in Borneo, and for six-and-a-half years was engaged in the *Herald* in the search for Sir John Franklin. Afterwards, as lieutenant of the *Iano*, he led the successful search for the lost expedition of Mr. Gregory and his party in Torres Straits, and assisted in the magnetic observations during the voyage of the *Royal Charter* to Australia. In command of the *Sea Gull* he was engaged in the survey of the west coast of Scotland, and as commander of the *Gannet* in the survey of Trinidad and the exploration of Labrador. He also explored the Sooloo Islands, where he had three officers and two men wounded in the attack upon a nest of pirates, of whom 190 were killed.

From 1856 to 1858 Captain Chimmo was secretary to the Hydrographer of the Admiralty. The greater portion of his life was devoted to the Hydrographic Survey, and he wrote several papers on the result of deep-sea soundings in the Atlantic, on which he was employed. His only communication to this Society was an account of the great shower of meteors on November 14, 1867, which he observed when surveying in the West Indies.

After his retirement from the Navy, with the rank of post-captain, in 1873, he settled at Weymouth, where he died, October 30, 1891, at the age of sixty-four. He was a Fellow of the Linnean, Royal Geographical, and Meteorological Societies. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on November 11, 1859.

ALBERT ESCOTT was born in Somersetshire in 1840, his father being a member of an old county family. His father died in 1845, and in 1851 the son entered the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich, as pupil in the Upper School, which at that time consisted of the sons of naval officers. The first years of his school life were passed under the care of the late Rev. Dr. Hill, and afterwards under that of Mr. John Riddle. In 1855 Mr. Escott was appointed senior pupil teacher in the Upper School, and after three years became assistant master in the Nautical School, and was afterwards second master in Section C. He was appointed head master in 1870, at which time the school was entirely reorganised. In 1874 an important change was made, naval schoolmasters being sent to be trained by Mr. Escott and his assistant at Greenwich, from which certificates were granted, instead of at the training colleges to which naval schoolmasters had been formerly sent. After the death of his former teacher, Mr. John Riddle, Mr. Escott edited the 8th edition of that

author's well-known treatise on Navigation. Mr. Escott was a Freemason, and took an active interest in the charitable institutions connected with that body, besides filling various parochial and other public offices. He was a man of marked ability and varied attainments, and by his personal qualities he won the affection and esteem of a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Escott died October 28, 1891. He was elected a Fellow of this Society May 13, 1864.

THOMAS HENRY HOVENDEN was born in Finsbury, November 4, 1833. He was educated privately, and on leaving school was articled to a solicitor. He was afterwards for many years the senior member of the firm of Hovenden, Heath & Berridge, surveyors, of Bishopsgate Street, from which he retired on account of failing health a few years before his death. Mr. Hovenden was a member of the British Archæological Association, and was elected a Fellow of this Society, December 12, 1884.

JOHN MERRIFIELD was born August 24, 1834, at Petertavy, on the borders of Dartmoor. He received his early education at the Tavistock National School, and after passing two years at the Exeter Training College was appointed elementary schoolmaster at Marytavy. His spare time was devoted to surveying and chemistry, and he was much sought after as an analyst. His natural love for mathematics, however, led him in 1862 to leave Marytavy for Plymouth, to become the founder and head master of the Plymouth Navigation School, thenceforward occupying himself in astronomy and kindred subjects.

In 1860 he published, in conjunction with Mr. Evers, a *Treatise on Navigation and Nautical Astronomy*. In 1876 he published a work on *Magnetism and the Deviation of the Compass*, and in 1887 a *Treatise on Nautical Astronomy*, in which he introduced his own method of clearing the lunar distances. In 1888 he received the Bronze Medal of the Falmouth Polytechnic Exhibition for an artificial horizon for sea use.

Mr. Merrifield's interest in education was shown by the science classes conducted by him, in most cases for the love of teaching, in which students were instructed in the elements of mathematics. He was a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and made and tabulated regular observations for nearly twenty-seven years. At the time of his death he was engaged in preparing for publication a work on *Climate and Health*.

Mr. Merrifield died June 27, 1891, having been in failing health for nearly two years. He was elected a Fellow of this Society February 10, 1865.

JESSE SCOFFIN NIMKEY was born in 1838. He was engaged in a business which demanded most of his time and attention, but